

2 Peter

The Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:10-13)

Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Read: The Day of the Lord (3:10-13)

Greeting the Faithful

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Fruitful Growth in the Faith

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peter's Approaching Death

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, 14 knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." **18** And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; **20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Destructive Doctrines

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. **3** By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Doom of False Teachers

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; **5** and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; **6** and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; **7** and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked **8** (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)— **9** *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, **10** and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, **11** whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Depravity of False Teachers

12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, **13** and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. *They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,* **14** having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, *and are accursed children.* **15** They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; **16** but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Deceptions of False Teachers

18 For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. **19** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. **20** For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. **21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

God's Promise Is Not Slack

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of which* I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), **2** that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, **3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." **5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, **6** by which the world *that* then

existed perished, being flooded with water. **7** But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The Day of the Lord

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. **11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Explain: The Day of the Lord (3:10-13)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

Peter moves into full-scale prophet mode with his confident future indicatives. While there is debate in Christianity about whether or not God will start completely over or make the old new, there is no doubt that the Day of the Lord is coming.

What are the most repeated words in 2 Peter?

Their/them/themselves/they (42), you/your (28), he/his/him (22), our/us/we (21), **will** (21), Lord (15), I/me/my (12), day (9), Jesus (9), **know**/knowing/known/knows (9), Christ (8), God (7), knowledge (7), righteous/righteousness (7), beloved (6), destruction/destructive (6), holy (6), own (6), heavens (5), Savior (5), speak/speaking (5), way (5), world (5), earth (4), glory (4), godliness (4), judgment (4), promise (4), water (4), lust/lusts (4)

What are the most repeated words in this text?

Will (7), heavens (3), **come**/coming (2), day (2), dissolved (2), earth (2), elements (2), fervent (2), heat (2), look/looking (2), melt (2), new (2)

What do the words mean?

10 But the day [day, i.e., (literally) the time space between dawn and dark, or the whole 24 hours; figuratively, a period (always defined more or less clearly by the context): age, alway, (mid-)day (by day, (-ly)), for ever, judgment, (day) time, while, years; used in **1:19; 2:8** (twice), **9, 13; 3:3, 7, 8** (twice), **10, 12, 18**] **of the Lord** [*kyrios*; supreme in authority, i.e., (as noun) controller; by implication, Master (as a respectful title): God, Lord, master, Sir; used in **1:2, 8, 11, 14, 16; 2:9, 11, 20; 3:2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 18**] **will come** [future active indicative; to arrive, i.e., be present (literally or figuratively): come] **as a thief** [*kleptes*; a stealer (literally or figuratively): thief] **in the night** ["night" (literally or figuratively): (mid-)night], **in which the heavens** [the sky; by extension, heaven (as the abode of God); by implication, happiness, power, eternity; specially, the Gospel (Christianity): air, heaven(-ly), sky; used in **1:18; 3:5, 7, 10, 12, 13**] **will pass away** [future middle deponent indicative; to come near or aside, i.e., to approach (arrive), go by (or away), (figuratively) perish or neglect, (causative) avert: come (forth), go, pass (away, by, over), past, transgress] **with a great noise** [whizzingly, i.e., with a crash: with a great noise], **and the elements** [something orderly in arrangement, i.e., (by implication) a serial (basal, fundamental, initial) constituent (literally), proposition (figuratively): element, principle, rudiment; used in **3:10, 12**] **will melt** [future passive indicative; to "loosen" (literally or figuratively): break (up), destroy, **dissolve**, (un-)loose, melt, put off; used in **3:10, 11, 12**] **with fervent heat** [present passive participle (**repeatedly** fervent heat); to set on fire: fervent heat; used in **3:10, 12**]; **both the earth** [soil; by extension a region, or the solid part or the whole of the terrene globe (including the occupants in each application): country, earth(-ly), ground, land, world; used in **3:5, 7, 10, 13**] **and the works** [*ergon*; toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication, an act: deed, doing, labor, work; used in **2:8; 3:10**] **that are in it will be burned up** [second future passive indicative; to burn down (to the ground), i.e., **consume** wholly: burn (up, utterly)]. **11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved** [present passive participle (**repeatedly** dissolved); to "loosen" (literally or figuratively): break (up), destroy, dissolve, (un-)loose, melt, put off; used in **3:10, 11, 12**], **what manner** [interrogatively, whatever, i.e., of what possible sort: what (manner of)] **of persons ought** [present indicative; it is (was, etc.) necessary (as binding): behaved, be meet, must (needs), (be) need(-ful), ought, should] **you to be** [present active infinitive; begin under (quietly), i.e., come into existence (be present or at hand); expletively, to exist (as copula or subordinate to an adjective, participle, adverb or preposition, or as an auxiliary to a principal (verb): after, behave, live; used in **1:8; 2:19; 3:11**] **in holy** [*hagios*; sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated): (most) holy (one, thing), saint; used in **1:18, 21** (twice); **2:21; 3:2, 11**] **conduct** [behavior: conversation; used in **2:7; 3:11**] **and**

godliness [piety; specially, the gospel scheme: godliness, holiness; used in **1:3, 6, 7; 3:11**, **12** **looking for** [present active participle (**repeatedly** looking for); to **anticipate** (in thought, hope or fear); by implication, to await: (be in) expect(-ation), look (for), when looked, tarry, wait for; used in **3:12, 13, 14** **and hastening** [*speedo*; present active participle (**repeatedly** hastening); to “speed” (“study”), i.e., urge on (diligently or earnestly); by implication, to await eagerly: (make, with) haste unto] **the coming** [*parousia*; a being near, i.e., advent (often, return; specially, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physically, aspect: coming, presence; used in **1:16; 3:4, 12**; **The word was often used as a term for the appearance of a god or arrival of a king or ruler.**¹⁸ **of the day** [day, i.e., (literally) the time space between dawn and dark, or the whole 24 hours; figuratively, a period (always defined more or less clearly by the context): age, alway, (mid-)day (by day, (-ly)), for ever, judgment, (day) time, while, years; used in **1:19; 2:8** (twice), **9, 13; 3:3, 7, 8** (twice), **10, 12, 18** **of God** [*theos*; a deity, especially the supreme Divinity; figuratively, a magistrate; by Hebraism, very: God, god(-ly, -ward); used in **1:1, 2, 17, 21; 2:4; 3:5, 12**, **because of which the heavens** [the sky; by extension, heaven (as the abode of God); by implication, happiness, power, eternity; specially, the Gospel (Christianity): air, heaven(-ly), sky; used in **1:18; 3:5, 7, 10, 12, 13**] **will be dissolved** [future passive indicative; to “loosen” (literally or figuratively): break (up), destroy, dissolve, (un-)loose, melt, put off; used in **3:10, 11, 12**, **being on fire** [*pyroo*; present passive participle (**repeatedly** being on fire); to kindle, i.e., (passively) to be ignited, glow (literally), be refined (by implication), or (figuratively) to be inflamed (with anger, grief, lust): burn, fiery, be on fire, try], **and the elements** [something orderly in arrangement, i.e., (by implication) a serial (basal, fundamental, initial) constituent (literally), proposition (figuratively): element, principle, rudiment; used in **3:10, 12**] **will melt** [present passive indicative; to liquefy: melt] **with fervent heat** [present passive participle; to set on fire: fervent heat; used in **3:10, 12**? **13** **Nevertheless we, according to His promise** [a self-committal (by assurance of conferring some good): promise; used in **1:4; 3:13**, **look for** [present active indicative; to anticipate (in thought, hope or fear); by implication, to await: (be in) expect(-ation), look (for), when looked, tarry, wait for; used in **3:12, 13, 14**] **new** [new (especially in freshness): new; used twice in **3:13**] **heavens** [the sky; by extension, heaven (as the abode of God); by implication, happiness, power, eternity; specially, the Gospel (Christianity): air, heaven(-ly), sky; used in **1:18; 3:5, 7, 10, 12, 13**] **and a new** [new (especially in freshness): new; used twice in **3:13**] **earth** [soil; by extension a region, or the solid part or the whole of the terrene globe (including

¹⁸ Cleon L. Rogers Jr and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 583

the occupants in each application): country, earth(-ly), ground, land, world; used in **3:5, 7, 10, 13** **in which righteousness** [equity (of character or act); specially (Christian) justification: righteousness; used in **1:1; 2:5, 21; 3:13**] **dwells** [present active indicative; to house permanently, i.e., reside (literally or figuratively): dwell(-er), inhabitant(-ter)].

Apply (What is the point?)

1. The **Day** of the Lord **is coming**
2. **All** things will be made **new**
3. Righteousness will have a **home**

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. **Look** for and hasten His coming
2. Hold stuff **lightly**
3. **Rejoice**

Next week: Be Steadfast (3:14-18)

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times in multiple ways) (**2 Peter 3:14-18**)
3. Talk to someone about the text ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool) or in person)
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member